

2,000 Jam UCLA Hall to Hear First Lecture by Angela Davis

BY KENNETH REICH

Times Staff Writer

An overflow crowd of 2,000 students, faculty members and a few onlookers heard Communist Party member Angela Davis give her first UCLA lecture Monday in the school's largest auditorium.

Miss Davis spoke for about half an hour on the theme of freedom and its relation to the black slave after inviting students to help seek certification of her course for academic credit.

The UC Board of Regents stripped the course—Recurring Philosophical Themes in Black Literature—of credit in an emergency meeting last Friday.

Dismissal proceedings also are pending against Miss Davis under the regents' policy against employing Communists at the university.

After Miss Davis' lecture, her huge class meeting in Royce Hall was turned into a student assembly

under the chairmanship of Sonja Walker, a member of the campus chapter of the Black Students Union.

With about 700 persons remaining of the original crowd, the assembly decided by a voice vote to call on the UCLA faculty to refuse to teach until Miss Davis is allowed to teach for credit.

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There were indications, however, that faculty support for what would amount to a strike would be lacking under present circumstances.

A move was under way Monday to put the faculty on record that it considers Miss Davis' philosophy course to be a credit course.

The Academic Senate's committee on undergraduate courses and curricula adopted such a resolution, and Lowell J. Paige, the head of the Academic Senate, summoned the full faculty to a special meeting Thursday at 3 p.m. to ratify it.

The faculty last week condemned the regents' order to institute dismissal proceedings against the black professor.

But Paige, informed of the resolution asking the faculty to stop teaching, commented Monday night, "That won't get off the ground."

Omits Endorsement

And one of Miss Davis' strongest supporters, Prof. David Kaplan, vice chairman of the Philosophy Department pointedly omitted an endorsement of the strike call when asked about it in a news conference after the assembly.

Aside from an apparently unrelated incident early Monday in which someone threw two fire bombs into a parking kiosk near the administration building, causing \$2,500 damage, Monday was a calm day at UCLA.

The day saw the regular opening of classes for the fall quarter. Thousands of students clogged the campus, causing a massive morning traffic jam in arriving.

There was not the slightest hint of disturbance at Miss Davis' 3 p.m. lecture or anywhere nearby and the audience was unusually attentive.

The lecture had been moved into the 1,960-seat Royce Hall from the smaller Dickson Art Center, where Miss Davis was originally scheduled to speak, at the request of Prof. Donald Kalish, chairman of the Philosophy Department.

Made Assignment

Kalish, who was instrumental in hiring Miss Davis and who assigned her to teach in the fall quarter after the regents voted to institute dismissal proceedings against her, explained that he wanted to insure that everyone coming to her class

would have a place to sit.

Numerous cardboard signs had been posted on the campus urging students to support Miss Davis by coming to hear her lecture.

Hundreds of brightly colored buttons saying, "On Campus, For Credit, As Planned" were handed out.

This was the same slogan used last year at the university's Berkeley campus in relation to the Eldridge Cleaver controversy.

The 25-year-old Miss Davis was applauded loudly at the beginning and end of her remarks.

She had said previously she would ask the students whether they wanted her to go ahead with her lectures. When she asked if there were any objections, there were none.

Miss Davis' lecture generally was well received. Several faculty supporters predictably lauded it, but independent observers also expressed favorable reactions.

She preceded her formal lecture with a description of the regents' action against her as "an outright attack on the students," and she urged the students to "deal with the encroachments" of the regents.

The student assembly following the lecture was orderly in form but somewhat disorganized in content. Many of those attending were uncertain about the content of the resolutions adopted.

The most important was a three-part resolution introduced by Jeff Kaye, a junior majoring in English. It called for opening Thursday's Academic Senate meeting to the public, urged that the faculty take a stand for making Miss Davis' course one for credit and urged that the faculty stop teaching until that time.

Several students rose during the meeting to complain that all that was happening was talk and that the students should take immediate action against the regents.

Two adult women, one a 1942 Berkeley graduate who said she had driven in from Bakersfield, tried during the meeting to put critical questions to Miss Davis, asking among other things whether she felt she would have been able to deliver Monday's lecture in Russian-occupied Czechoslovakia.

Miss Davis told the first woman that she would not answer her questions then but would be glad to see



EMBATTLED PROFESSORS - Angela Davis with UCLA philosophy department Chairman Donald Kalish at news conference that followed her lecture. Times photo by Fitzgerald Whitney

her in her office later. To the second, she said the question about Czechoslovakia was irrelevant.

During the meeting, members of the Philosophy Department said they had requested the UCLA administration not to post plainclothes security men in the lecture hall and that the administration had agreed.

Given Protection

Miss Davis was protected, particularly at the end of the meeting, by at least four black men, two of whom identified themselves as affiliated with the all-black Communist Party collective in which she is a member.

At the news conference that followed, Miss Davis said she had never meant to suggest that she had been ordered fired by the regents because she was black rather than because she was a Communist.

She insisted the press had distorted her previous remarks about racism in her case.

"I consistently have said I was fired because of my political views," Miss Davis said. But, she added, black people are often more affected by political tests than whites.

Other Developments

There were these other developments in the Davis case Monday:

—The required minimum number of 35 professors asked the UCLA Academic Senate for a mail ballot on the senate's endorsement last week of a planned campus-wide convocations Oct. 15 and 17 on the Davis matter. The faculty members reportedly are concerned about the possible disruption of classes by the 90-minute convocations and they want to know more about how they will be organized and who will speak at them.

—Max Rafferty, state superintendent of public instruction, said 20 black professors at UCLA should be fired if they carry out their Sunday night threat to withhold grades in courses they teach unless Miss Davis is permitted to teach for credit.

"Anyone who wilfully violates the rules is guilty of insubordination and should be fired," Rafferty

said.
"It makes no difference if they're black, brown or polka-dotted. The question is, who's going to run the store. The profs just work there."